GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1716
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Clean Air
Diwakar Shri Rajesh Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking any initiative to make the air cleaner and is also moving towards a low-carbon economic growth model in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether any MoU have been signed with countries including France and US for clean air/energy drive in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide clean air to all citizens in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) The Government has taken various measures to contain air pollution in the country which inter alia include, supply of cleaner fuels, use of gaseous fuel for public transport in select cities, pollution under control (PUC) certificate system, stringent source specific emission standards and their compliance, use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants, strengthening public transport, expansion of metro train system, implementation of revised emission norms for Gensets (at manufacturing stage), implementation of city specific action plan etc.

"The Emissions Gap Report 2014" by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognized India as one of the countries on track to achieve its voluntary target. India has voluntary commitment to reduce the emissions intensity of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 20-25% over the 2005 levels, by the year 2020.

(b) The Joint Statement issued during the visit of President of USA to India in January last year envisaged cooperation between the two countries in the area of clean energy, climate change and air quality cooperation.

As regards France, the Joint Statement during the State visit of President of the French Republic in January this year envisages collaboration in the area of clean and sustainable development, climate change, international solar alliance, sustainable consumption and production pattern, renewable energies and energy efficiency, sustainable urban development, transport etc.

(c) The other major steps taken by the Government to address the issues of air pollution in the country include the following:-

(i) Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants;
(ii) Formulation of environmental regulations / statutes;
(iii) Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
(iv) Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel, ethanol blend etc. replacing petrol and diesel;
(v) Promotion of cleaner production processes;

Taking note of the gravity of Air Pollution, the Government has taken some more measures which include:
(i) Launched National Air Quality index by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 14 cities and now extended to 22 cities;
(ii) Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 63 selected cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
(iii) Finalized migration to Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) by 1st April, 2020 and released draft notification on 19th February, 2016 to this effect. It is estimated that reduction of vehicular pollution would be upto 90%. Investment requirement for gasoline works out to be about ? 20,000 crore and for diesel, it is estimated to be ? 60,000 crore as per Auto-Fuel Vision and Policy - 2025;
(iv) Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste;
(v) Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;
(vi) Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries.
(vii) Regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR.
(viii) Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

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